

TV teaching for young workers to be studied

by Maggie Richards

A major feasibility study is to be undertaken of ways in which television could be used to help young workers adjust to their working and social environments after leaving school.

The study, involving the secondment of two officials from the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the British Broadcasting Corporation, is being sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission and the Cocksfield Foundation. It will also examine the use of other distance learning techniques and the involvement of volunteers, who might be used in a similar way to the voluntary tutors engaged on literacy schemes.

One particular aim will be to look for means of assisting unemployed young people to obtain employment. Informal discussions have been held between representatives of the MSC, the BBC and the IBA. They have also involved officials from the Department of Education and Science, and other figures from the world of education.

A spokesman for the MSC said: "Some of the ideas were first expounded when the station of the University of the Air was put forward. They are applicable to the problems encountered by young people in training."

Professor Gould's planned visit rouses students

Students at the Polytechnic of North London are pressing the Council for National Academic Awards to reconsider the inclusion of Professor Julius Gould, author of the anti-Marxist tract *The Attack on Higher Education*, in a team of academics shortly to visit the polytechnic.

The students' union has written to the CNAA expressing "regret" that Professor Gould, head of the sociology department at Nottingham University, has been invited to be a member of the 12-strong party making the quinquennial visit later this month.

Ms Kate Worley, union president and a member of the National Organisation of International Sociologists, said this week: "The executive committee of the union regrets Julius Gould's invitation to attend because of his outspoken criticism of the approach to sociology."

"We feel he is biased and not suitable to take part in a visitation where they are valuing the polytechnic."

They were not happy particularly in view of comments made in the past about the PNL by a former head of the sociology department, Mrs Caroline Cox, a member of a study group that helped to produce *The Attack on Higher Education*.

They were also concerned in the light of the decision last October by Mr Terence Miller, the polytechnic's director, to call in the examination papers of all final year sociology students to examine them for Marxist bias. The students intended to raise the matter at a meeting of the academic board due to be held on Wednesday.

Miss Harriot Greenaway, assistant academic registrar, said she understood that the CNAA's intention was to try to build up a visiting party that had as much continuity as possible with those that came in 1973 and 1975. Professor Gould came in 1975.

Dr Brian Herard, acting head of the department of sociology, felt that Professor Gould was an entirely appropriate choice.

Professor Gould is to deliver a lecture entitled "Freedom—For What?" on February 23, the first day of the CNAA visit.

Increase in science numbers proposed

by Judith Judd

Universities have been asked by the University Grants Committee to consider increasing the proportion of students studying science. The committee's most recent letter says that the proportion of arts to science, including medical students, has changed over the past few years from 45:55 to about 49:51 in 1976-77. It points out that the universities' recent estimates of the numbers in each group by 1980-81 would have maintained the current position.

"On the one hand that might be regarded as laudable, having regard to the trend over the recent period; on the other, information from UCCA on admissions in 1977

and applications in date for 1978 seems to indicate that the annual rate of increase in science is higher than in the arts."

In discussing the overall total of students expected by 1980-81 the letter says universities had estimated 315,000 by 1981 even when the Government was planning to finance only 291,000. "It has now said the figure for 1981 should be 310,000."

The national "roll on" effect on a probable under-graduate entries in 1979 and 1980 makes 310,000 virtually the equivalent of 310,000 a year later. "It appears therefore that planning could proceed on numbers related fairly closely to the rate of expansion the universities have had in mind."

Lecturers from fined polys disrupt ILEA committee

by Peter David

Over 20 chanting lecturers disrupted a meeting of the Inner London Education Authority's education committee this week in protest against a decision to dock £100,000 from the polytechnics which failed to keep their overseas student numbers static.

The lecturers, from Thames Polytechnic and the Polytechnic of Central London, brought the meeting to a temporary halt by shouting "no fines on polys, no racist quotas" during the education committee's debate on the ILEA's annual budget.

Both polytechnics, however, have already been notified officially that their ILEA grants will be cut by £50,000 during the next academic year. The decision to impose the fine and higher education sub-committee, does not require formal ratification by the education committee.

But the issue was debated briefly by the education committee during a discussion on the ILEA's latest scheme to reduce overseas numbers in each of the polytechnics and colleges to 25 per cent of total numbers by 1981.

Conservative members of the committee said they were unhappy about the way the decision to penalize the two polytechnics had been taken. Mr David Smith, the Conservative spokesman on further and higher education, said that the decision had gone through the sub-committee "without our having a chance to hear the other side of the case".

In a division, however, the ILEA report on overseas students was agreed by 29 votes to 15. Opposition to the fines is continuing at both polytechnics.

A resolution describing the ILEA's policy on quotas as "racist" was passed by Thames Polytechnic's academic council and its social sciences and humanities faculty board. But a meeting of the finance and general purposes committee of the governing body was disrupted by student protests and adjourned before the solution was discussed.

At the PCL a spokesman confirmed that the ILEA had given official notification that the fine would be imposed.

According to an ILEA spokesman a decision has yet been reached on how the £100,000 cut from the two polytechnics will be distributed.

O'Carroll sacks brings call for procedures

An emergency meeting of the University Senate has been called to discuss the sack of Dr O'Carroll, chairman of the public information exchange, this week.

Some academics at the meeting were concerned that the sack of O'Carroll might be used in circumstances to sack other staff. A petition of 60 signatures requesting an emergency debate is being sent to the vice-chancellor, Walter Perry.

Mr O'Carroll, who was press officer in the local services department, was sacked after members of the University council met to discuss his report on the Open University branch of the Association of Teachers in Higher Education.

Members of the Open University branch of the Association of Teachers in Higher Education have been particularly anxious about the sack of O'Carroll, who was head of the branch at Southwell, QC, in 1976.

The sack of O'Carroll is the first in the past 10 years to have been a dismissal of a senior official.

A branch spokesman, taking this action, has shown the assurance of the AUT over a five-year period. Any staff is now open to dismissal if they are found to be in breach of the code of conduct.

He emphasized that the all-out arguing for the release of Mr O'Carroll and did not do his views. "Mr O'Carroll is a totally irrelevant figure," he said.

The two motions to be debated at the meeting of the Senate are: "That the sack of O'Carroll is a threat to freedom of speech."

The Open University has been carrying out a study of the sack of O'Carroll. A statement from the university said he had been given months' pay in lieu of notice. A spokesman said Mr O'Carroll had been dismissed under conditions which allowed those applying to resign to have a say in the decision.

Higher Education

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University teachers poised to accept 10 per cent

by Judith Judd

University teachers will receive a pay award of around 10 per cent from teacher 1 last year but dates for the signing of their pay award have yet to be fixed.

Three important issues are the subject of a meeting of the Association of University Teachers in London. The association will receive the extra money to pay for the increases and difficulties over wage "drift" are being resolved after a meeting of Committee B this week.

Though negotiations have been held, the Government would give lecturers an award of 10 per cent, the maximum allowed under its pay guidelines—arguing that the rise is the amount of "drift" due to increments and promotions.

The Government said the "drift" should be discounted against any amount paid from lecturer 1. The University Grants Committee and the University Authorities Panel agreed that there was a wage drift of only 0.15 per cent at most and the AUT through this could be reduced to nothing.

In his latest bulletin to branch secretaries, Mr Laurie Sapper, the AUT's general secretary, said that it was common ground that the amount involved was very small. Another question which is also about to be settled is that of a new pay scale: agreed when the award is put right to take into account the 10 per cent increase from last October.

There has been a dispute between the Department of Education and Science and the universities about the way in which the scales should be calculated.

The AUT has always said, however, that agreement on the scales would be provisional and would depend on the universities given about the righting of the anomaly. This is now the crucial outstanding issue and negotiators are hoping for a reply from the Government at a meeting of Committee B next week.

At its December meeting the association voted to claim 10 per cent towards righting the anomaly from last October plus whatever increase the further education teachers receive in April. It also demanded the settlement of a whole anomaly by October this year.

Exactly when and how the anomaly should be paid and when Government undertakings will be given have still to be decided by ministers.

Greater powers for polytechnic governors, including control of the appointments of all academic and non-teaching staff, are recommended in the final report under discussion by the Dukes committee this week.

The report proposes constituting governing bodies "in such a way as to provide a clear focus of authority and accountability." They should be given maximum freedom to appoint staff, within total budgets and manpower ceilings laid down by the local authority.

"It is a common complaint, reflected in evidence submitted to us, that some local authorities interfere in the detailed management of their institutions so as effectively to prevent governing bodies from exercising the responsibilities for management entrusted to them by the institutions' articles of government", the report says.

The report also recommends clarifying the relationships between governors, academic boards and directors. It adds: "A large part of the expenditure of any higher education institution is related to academic matters and there is bound to be a close relationship between academic and financial responsibilities."

Bid to attract engineers to management

A new teaching company has been set up at Newcastle University in a bid to encourage engineering graduates to enter industrial management.

The scheme is based on co-operation between the mechanical engineering department and the firm of Mitchell Bearings, part of the engineering group of Vickers Ltd. A grant of £117,600 will help set up the company which is one of the first of a new national scheme financed jointly by the Science Research Council and the Department of Industry.

Teaching companies established following a report by a working party chaired by Professor Manly, dean of Newcastle's engineering faculty, aim to raise the performance of manufacturing engineers by fostering closer relationships between the industrial and academic worlds.

The basis of the scheme is the selection of successful manufacturing firms to partner university and polytechnic engineering departments. It is intended that the teaching companies will provide the high quality environments for training and for improvements in professional practice that the teaching industry does for medicine.

The grant for the Newcastle scheme will extend for three years and provides for the appointment of seven industrial associates. They will be selected from postgraduate engineers with some industrial experience and will take part in major projects. Their work at Mitchell Bearings will be under the company director, supported by a corresponding programme of study and tuition at the university.

The Newcastle project begins as Mitchell Bearings undertake a major £4.5 million rebuilding programme and the associates will be closely involved in this development. Their work will be concerned with improving manufacturing efficiency, techniques of production control and the setting up of new manufacturing capacity.

Similar teaching companies have been set up at Salford, Aston and Birmingham and are in conjunction with other engineering firms.

The THES regrets that certain advertisements scheduled to appear in this issue have not been produced because of unofficial industrial action in the Composing Room. We apologize to our readers and advertisers for this inconvenience.

One of the earliest victims of this nationwide reduction in teacher training, Mr Svensson has been in the region of 15-20 a year he was reasonably well provided for by the Colleges of Education (Compensation) Regulations 1975.

On leaving he received a lump sum from the DES as resettlement compensation—equivalent to 22 weeks of his salary. In addition he is getting long service compensation which entitles him to monthly payments of something less than half his previous salary. If he takes another job the amount of compensation will be reduced.

The Crombie settlement has been a satisfactory arrangement so far. However in other ways he feels that the experience of being made redundant has caused difficulties.

"For my wife and family it is a very traumatic time. They want to know where it is that the family is going to settle down. It is painful."

More power for poly governors?

by Peter David

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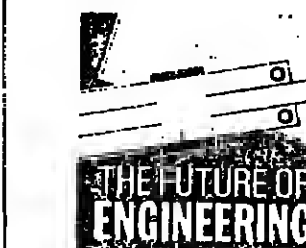
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Free standing diplomas attract big enrolment

by Simon Midgley

There has been an 80 per cent increase in the number of students enrolling on Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) validated free standing diploma courses of Higher Education over the past year—and a high proportion of these have been mature students.

This was announced by Dr Edwin Kerr, chief officer of the CNAA, at the fourth annual conference of the Association of Colleges Implementing DipHE (ACID) in Birmingham last week.

He told more than 70 delegates, mainly from polytechnics and colleges of education, that enrolment on free standing diploma courses in 1977-78 academic year was 510—almost half of whom were mature students. In 1976-77 the comparative figure was 280.

By comparison the number of students on CNAA validated diploma courses was 1,500 in 1977-78, and 1,400 in 1976-77. The latest intake remains about the same as that in 1976-77, around 1,600 students.

At present a total of 3,900 students are studying on 14 free standing diploma courses and 17 degree linked diploma courses. All 31 courses are approved by the CNAA and no statistics were offered for courses offered in the university sector. Last year the total number of students on DipHE courses was 3,350.

Dr Kerr said that free standing courses appeared to be coming increasingly attractive to students—particularly to mature applicants who were not qualified in the traditional sense.

While urging a wary of caution in interpreting the statistics on the basis that the sample numbers were fairly small and insufficient analysis had been conducted by the CNAA to date, Dr Kerr said there did appear to be some reason for concern that the drop out rate between the first and second year of both types of courses was fairly high.

Without naming colleges he gave examples of institutions where there had been a significant fall off. One course which started with 85 students in the first year, fell to 55 in the second. Another began with 70 and suffered a 25 per cent drop the following year.

Dr Kerr said that colleges would need to keep this under review and make sure that the situation did not deteriorate. With a fairly open access policy not tied to formal

academic qualifications, he said it was important for colleges to select students whom they felt were likely to complete the course.

Mr Martin Brennan, an ACID committee member and course director of the DipHE at King Alfred's College, Winchester, said he was "very pessimistic" at the moment about colleges' ability generally to attract students from the 18-year-old plus market in free standing DipHE courses.

Although his own college was not experiencing a problem, he said later, the evidence that ACID had collected seemed to show that a lot of DipHE students were recruited from the mature student market and colleges are struggling when "it comes to the 18-plus market".

Because for school leavers entry qualifications for DipHE courses are normally two A levels, many students prefer to opt for degree courses. Until the advantages of the DipHE became more widely known, for example, the opportunity for a second chance, most colleges would need to continue to run their DipHE programmes in conjunction with linked degree schemes.

As far as linked courses are concerned Dr Kerr said that only a fairly small proportion of students actually claimed the DipHE for which they might be eligible, most left with the linked degree qualification.

Mr Bob Fairthorn, DipHE course director at Bradford College, said that, although progress has been made on the issues of the transferability of the DipHE and on its internal coherence, there is a need to improve its acceptability as a terminal qualification.

Dr Mike Boulter of the North East London Polytechnic expressed some concern that institutions seemed to be spending an increasing amount of time arguing both internally and with the CNAA about the qualification's status and its transferability.

Mr John Davison, secretary of ACID, said that incomplete figures relating to the destinations of the 1977 DipHE output revealed that at least 586 awards were made.

Of these, 405 students transferred to higher education in the same institution and 95 transferred to degree courses in the same institution. Of the remaining 186 students, 40 were external transferees into courses offered by other institutions and 45 "were untraced" with the DipHE qualification.

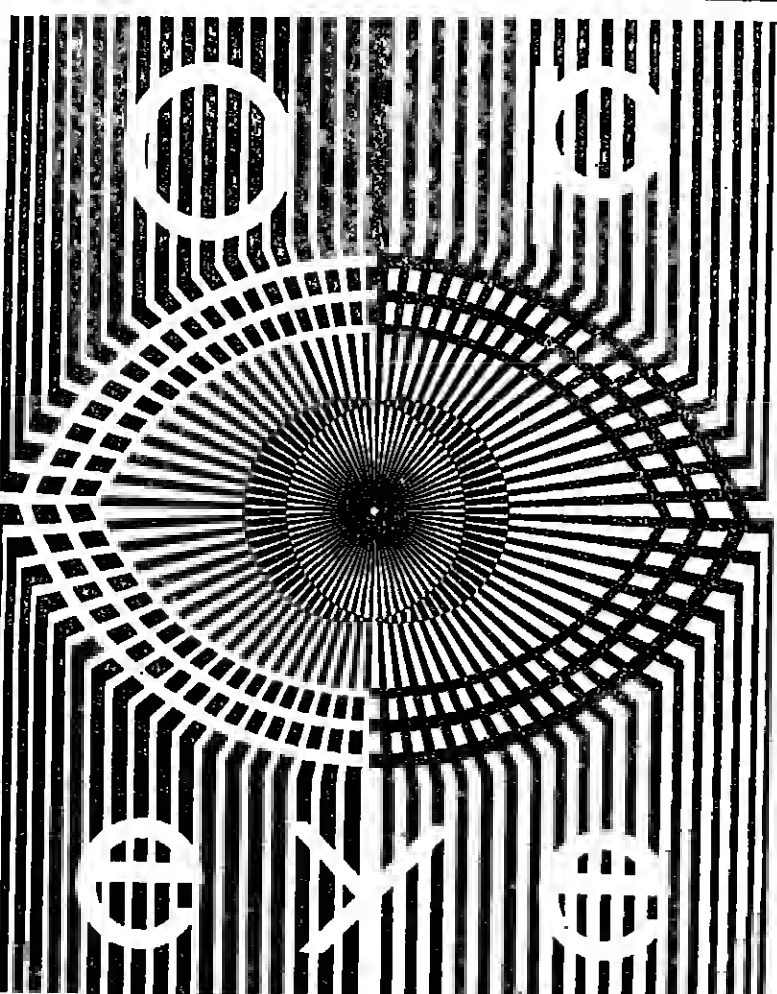
Polytechnic enthusiasm for project teaching methods

Are project teaching methods suitable for undergraduates? How can they be assessed? And what is a "project" anyway? These were key questions at a conference arranged by the staff development unit at Manchester Polytechnic last week. No "safe" answer emerged but it was clear that, while enthusiastically embracing the project mode could be a successful and exciting innovation, it is impossible to evaluate and of lasting benefit to students.

Or so it seemed from the account of methods adopted by the North East London Polytechnic, whose head of the Diploma of Higher Education department, Mr John Stephenson, told the conference that what employers expected from graduates, aside from a degree, was competence in dealing with the unfamiliar. "If we want people to learn to cope with the unfamiliar the obvious thing is to give them the unfamiliar," he said.

With this in mind the college's DipHE course was based on independent study and project work, with students designing and carrying out their own projects and having to prove their plans were appropriate. They must also participate in group projects to learn the techniques of collaboration. Students set their own targets and tutors were more and more expected to demonstrate that they had learned in their chosen subjects.

The fundamental philosophical position was that work is that of knowledge, and that it is a process. Each subject is



An exhibition of Op Art opened this week in the Honor Hall, Dundee University. It contains paintings, prints and kinetic displays including the work above produced by Mr Nicholas Wauke, a lecturer in the university's psychology department.

HMI paper will outline needs of community colleges

by Maggie Richards

The aims and needs of community colleges and community schools are to be outlined in a new paper to be published shortly by HMI Inspector.

Miss Margaret Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Education, said at a conference on community education at Millers in London last week that the paper would be designed to provoke discussion on the subject, and to encourage the development of more community colleges and community schools.

It has been the aim of my Department for some time to persuade local authorities to both build new community colleges and community schools, and to look at existing buildings to see how they could be used to make community use a practical and successful proposition."

Community institutions were at the heart of many of the developments in education today, Miss Jackson said in her address to the 220 delegates attending the two-day conference at the Stattonbury Campus in Millers.

More community colleges and community schools should be established, because both the institutions and the local community could benefit from such involvement.

The provision of adequate resources had proved a major stumbling block, she admitted. But it was equally important that staff were fired with the enthusiasm to make the scheme work, otherwise the facilities would be wasted.

A million fewer children would be entering schools over the next five years, and this would provide "hooseum" for the development

of community education. During this time it would come to be assumed that community education would be available as of right.

"Those with increased leisure time to the schools which have been built by the whole community to open up not only their sports facilities, but also all their other facilities and equipment for wider use", Miss Jackson added.

"Most of all, community colleges and community schools offer the chance of developing a new approach to education which is in itself more challenging and which can meet the needs of the society of the future."

Mr Geoff Cooksey, director of the Stattonbury Campus outlined five reasons for holding the conference: to learn from the progress of others; to provide mutual support; to discover the national pattern of provision; to establish a system of communication; and to prepare for developments in the field of community education.

The conference, he said, had not been organized on a formal basis. It had emerged as a result of a growing consciousness about community education by various groups, which had then taken a more concerted shape.

The demand for the conference had been demonstrated by the 150 applications which had to be turned down because of lack of accommodation.

He likened the development of community education to that of comprehensive schooling. "We have got past the stage of deciding whether we should have such institutions. We are now in the practical stage of discovering how they work and how we can improve them."

Jobs safeguard in training for skills

by Patricia Santinelli

Training for skills would provide young people with a safeguard against unemployment, Mr Geoffrey Holland, director of special programmes for the Manpower Services Commission, said last week.

Speaking at the Trade Union Congress Youth Conference Mr Holland emphasized that in future most jobs would require skills and that young people should be encouraged to acquire knowledge even when they are in employment," he said.

Another aspect of young people's education was seen as extremely important by Mr. Tony Davis, a delegate from the National Asso-

ciation of Teachers in Further Higher Education. Ms Doyle, a teacher in the college of technology in Bournemouth, said that the government should be encouraging young people to learn skills for a job and they preferred to learn at the job rather than in the classroom.

"This is what the YOP is intended to do, one which will help young people continue building on acquired knowledge even when they are in employment," he said.

Education was seen as extremely important by Mr. Tony Davis, a delegate from the National Asso-

TV numeracy course 'meets need'

Demand for Britain's first nationwide numeracy course, the Count, has exceeded all expectations, according to the organizers, the National Extension College, Cambridge.

The NEC, in conjunction with Yorkshire Television, devised television programmes which are being screened weekly by independent companies.

According to the NEC, more than 1,500 adults have been applying each week for the course. Extra staff have been employed to cope with demand, and a reprint of the correspondence materials has been ordered.

The materials consist of a book, a puzzle book and a specially devised card game. A manual training pack has also been ordered for the NEC for the correspondence pack are also advised of his own help locally.

Mr Richard Freeman, executive director of the NEC, said: "We struck a deep vein of need here, out of the population. The response to the programmes and the enthusiasm of the participants has been enormous. The overwhelming action is one of gratitude to adults who are desirous for help."

Hundreds of pensioners have taken to the series, and are not only applying for materials, but come from parents and grandparents to help their own children with numeracy problems.

Letters have also come from adults who have last year failed to win promotion because of problems with numeracy.

Said Mr Freeman: "The series was launched as a trial, but it would never work if you could not teach it by television. We think we have found a way, since the new television series is being launched."

The Make It Count series is continuing for another 6 months. It is transmitted on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10.15.

Board boycott at Middlesex

Students at Middlesex Polytechnic are boycotting meetings of the academic board and its committees in protest at a cut in student representation.

The constitution of the academic board was changed last year to new instruments of government of the polytechnic were approved by the Department of Education in 1976.

Under the new constitution membership of the board is to be from 143 to 140. The student total is to be reduced to 33 to six.

Mr John Rabone, president of the student union, this week described the change as "a major step back". He said students would be "reduced to a minority" and the governing body would be "dominated by the interests of the staff and the board."

The students' protest has been supported by two of the polytechnic's five faculty boards, the boards for social science and education, and the performing arts and drama.

Under the new system examinations became much more important and failure after re-examination could result in expulsion from the course.

Middlesex College of Education Students' Union is concerned because Keele University regulations appear to have taken precedence over the college's own regulations which means that students have lost their right to appeal personally and take representation in the relevant hearing.

Mr Paul Laxton, union president, said: "The main concern in my mind is that the university is imposing its own regulations on students who have the right to appeal personally and take representation if they wish to."

"The argument of the university is that it has to have a three-day international conference on the subject. Speakers from West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Canada and the United States presented papers and research reports on work 'revision' measures in their own countries."

Teachers press claim for 18.5% pay increases

Teachers in further education are in "real danger" of falling behind other comparable income groups, the teachers' panel has warned in its submission to the Human Resources Education Committee management panel.

The 11-page pay claim also seeks a guarantee that when a settlement is reached, negotiations can be repeated if salaries in further education again fall behind those of other groups.

The claim, for salary increases of 18.5 per cent and other improvements in the pay structure, was presented in the management panel last week by Mr Simon Broadbridge, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

In his address to the management panel Mr Broadbridge emphasized that there were no restrictions imposing a second year pay settlement.

He told the panel: "You are not obliged to conform to any statutory incomes policy. There is no policy on the statute book apart from the 12-month rule. Not even cash limits."

| Proposed salary scales from April 1, 1978 | |
|---|--|
| Lecturer grade 1 | 13,453 by fourteen increments to 15,802 |
| Lecturer grade 1f | 14,170 by ten increments to 17,111 |
| Senior lecturer | 16,585 by four increments to 17,677 (hour) |
| Principal lecturer | 17,656 by two increments to 18,223 |
| | by three increments to 18,484 (hour) |
| Department head, grade 1 | 16,417 by four increments to 19,388 |
| | by four increments to 17,317 |
| | by four increments to 18,253 |
| | by four increments to 18,936 |
| | by four increments to 19,666 |
| | by four increments to 20,422 |
| | by four increments to 21,175 |

Students in dispute with Keele

by Simon Midgley

Madeley College of Education Students' Union is in dispute with Keele University over its academic appeals procedure.

The union is pressing the university to establish a "properly constituted appeals procedure" where by students who fail their examinations are given the rights of personal appearance and representation.

At present the students claim that only an unofficial appeals procedure exists and that this only considers written submissions.

The issue arose during the 1976-77 academic year after the college introduced new three-year ordinary and four-year honours degrees validated by the university.

Formerly all entrants to Madeley College for initial submission of a course and just a minority went on to a further year for a BEd honours course.

Under the old system written examinations were not crucial in their own right until last year, and students, who were performing badly at any time during their course, were dealt with by a progress committee which could recommend to the college's new academic board expulsion if necessary.

However, students were allowed the right of appeal to use academic board and ultimately to a committee of the governors and the college's articles of government also safeguarded their right of representation and personal appearance.

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New group to help the adult learner

Moves will be made shortly to strengthen the student lobby for paid educational leave and mandatory grants for up to 10 years.

In the next few months the National Union of Students and the Open University Students Association are expected to establish a joint working party on adult and continuing education provision.

The main aim of the new group will be to draw attention to the concept of continuing education, and the growing demand for wider provision.

Preliminary talks about the creation of the working party have been held between the two groups.

OUSA's executive and education committee have now to discuss the proposal, before it goes to the association's national conference in April.

OUSA's general secretary Mr Rex O'Hare said: "We believe adult and continuing education should be open to everyone, which it certainly is not at present. We want to see part-time students having access to mandatory grants in order to study, and paid educational leave available to everyone."

We are seeking the support of the NUS as a pressure group in education."

Sussex occupied

Sussex University was occupied for three days last week by students demanding changes in the university's academic assessment procedures.

The students' main demand was for an observer on the student progress committee, which oversees the work of academically unsatisfactory students.

A resolution to appoint a student observer was agreed "in principle" by the university senate last term, but students want the decision to be implemented immediately.

Stirling jobs seminar

Stirling University made its contribution to the unemployment and work creation issues last week when it held a three-day international conference on the subject. Speakers from West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Canada and the United States presented papers and research reports on work 'revision' measures in their own countries.

Threat to European science research

by Robin McKie

Scientific research in danger of being "choked at the point of origin," Sir Brian Howard, president of the European Science Foundation, has warned.

In the foundation's annual report he stresses that in all 17 member countries the support for small-scale research is being squeezed because larger proportions of dwindling budgets are being devoted to large-scale undertakings. If this trend continues, it will soon have a serious effect on scientific innovation by suffocating it at its source. This danger is compounded by the shortage of posts at universities and research institutes for the appointment of emerging young research workers.

"Although we must all accept the necessity to trim our activities in difficult economic times, the executive council has thought it over more than twice and has decided that it believes crucial to become a dangerous situation," he states. The report reveals that statistics

for the period 1970-77 show an almost universal trend towards "rational" expenditure, while grants to universities and other independent laboratories, teams and individuals, have decreased in recent years.

This development may be understandable, say the foundation, but it contains symptoms of a dangerous nature. The running of international projects, scientific techniques, while innovative research is pioneered at a lower level.

"It should be taken into account that, especially in those fields which have no need for very expensive, big facilities—which are the main reason for international research centres—cooperation between smaller units in different countries makes up for at least an equally important part of European research activities."

This threat to the vigour and creativity of research communities is even more pressing because of the proposed serious limitations on university recruitment over the next

10 years. This could cause serious problems, distorting the pattern of research at centres and leading eventually to a "strong negative momentum" towards research and a university sector in general.

This problem has lost some European countries in place greater emphasis on financing smaller units of research away from support for international projects. But the foundation warns that this, in turn, could have a detrimental effect on big science and international co-operation.

The cultivation of a healthy and innovative research community should be complemented by maintaining at the same time the big research establishments, so that they can provide adequate facilities for a substantial number of users from universities in the different countries," they state.

In a bid to redress the balance, the foundation is to create a "modest" fellowship and workshop schemes to support activities suitable for European collaboration and for which adequate arrangements do not already exist.

Leader, page 16



Four student directors have been appointed by the St Andrews' Festival Society Committee to run the 1979 festival. They are from left to right: Miss Susan Wade, Mr Clive Allen, Miss Carmel George and Mr Colin Forbes of St Andrews University.

Adult education needs special centres, urges new report

Specialized centres provide a better base for adult education than the multi-purpose community college or community school, according to the findings of a major new survey of adult education provision.

The authors of the survey, Mr Harold Whitshire, emeritus professor of the adult education department at Nottingham University and vice-president of the National Institute of Adult Education, and his colleague Mr Graham Meek, senior lecturer in the adult education department at Nottingham, also report that the adult education service is under such financial pressure in some parts of the country that its very existence is threatened.

Those findings, following a two-and-a-half-year investigation of institutions and staffing, are published in *Structure and Performance in Adult Education*. The survey was financed by the Department of Education and Science.

The report questions the assumption that specialized centres can only be justified economically. "It seems to us that only reasonably coherent population of 25,000 or so could use fully and support a specialized institution with modest promises of its own and a full-time adult education with adequate administrative and clerical support."

"This would cost little or more than the provision of equivalent accommodation in a multi-purpose institution—the return educationally and socially would be far greater."

Among the multi-purpose institutions, the authors find that colleges of further education are more cost-effective than the adult education service. Advantages of the system include the closer relationship of adults to traditional college studies, in both age and the part-time

and voluntary nature of courses; the fact that adult education is statutorily part of the further education system and financed from the same budget; and the fact that the college is a three-session day.

But the potential advantages of the college are only likely to be developed where a clear commitment has been given to education of the whole adult community, the report adds.

The obvious advantage of the community school is that it provides accommodation for small communities at little capital cost, but it must cater for schoolchildren, the youth service and adult education, the report points out.

Four disadvantages of the system are outlined: "There is a wide age gap between school and adult students; school education is compulsory and full-time, adult education is voluntary and part-time; there are wide organizational and attitudinal differences between the two services; the school tradition tends to be one of central control rather than departmental independence; the school-youth-adult hierarchy excludes further and higher education, the very sectors of education with which adult education is likely to have most in common."

The authors admit that some of these disadvantages are likely to disappear as the community school assumes its full role. But some of the problems are seen as structural ones which will not easily be remedied.

In general terms the adoption of a particular type of institution is not guaranteed of its success, adult education institutions and their staffs tend to be highly idiosyncratic, says the report.

Feature, page 15

NUS demands return to 1962 grant levels

by Peter David

The National Union of Students is to ask the Government to raise student grants by 26 per cent next year to restore their value to 1962 levels.

Under the new claim, which has already been put to Mrs Williams, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, basic undergraduate grants would be increased from an annual £1,110 in 1962 to £1,280 in 1978. The total grant would rise from £1,145 to £1,450, and the grant for students living at home would rise from £785 to £995.

Also demanded in the NUS grants claim is a phased abolition of the parental means test. The union's submission to the DES cites evidence that 84 per cent of university students do not receive the full value of their grants because their parents cannot afford to pay their contribution.

The NUS is expected to attach more importance, however, to its request for a Government inquiry into the funding of students in the 1970s.

At press conferences around the country this week the union leadership has argued that cases of extreme financial hardship are common.

The NUS claims that only 10 per cent of these students receive a grant, and those who do get an average of only £222 a week. The £18 a week grant offered to part-time students in the Government's new youth opportunities scheme will be an added disincentive for students taking further education courses, the union warns.

Miss Susan Slipman, the union's president, described the situation as "a crisis in further education." She added: "We believe that the thousands of cases of extreme hardship that the union has uncovered in recent months prove beyond doubt that the problem cannot be solved by local education authorities, which have become vehicles for the implementation of cutbacks in public expenditure."

"The only way this mess can be sorted out is by the Government stepping in and making a complete review of the funding of all 16 to 19-year-olds undergoing education and training."

Correction
Mr Terence Miller, the director of the Polytechnic of North London, has asked us to raise our headline figure of 28 (THE, February 3) the institution's output of graduates in absolute numbers is higher than that of some of the smaller British universities—but that the percentage of the institution's total output at first degree or postgraduate level is higher.

"Drugs Ancient and Modern" was the theme of the 17th annual Todd lecture which Professor W. Bowmaker, head of Strathclyde University's department of physiology and pharmacology, delivered at the Strathclyde General Hospital, Glasgow, last week.

RESEARCH

£250,000 for study of early years of life

by Simon Midgley

The educational transitions in the first eight years of a child's life are to be the subject of a £250,000 research study by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

A three-part research and development programme, independently established and financed, but organizationally closely linked is to be undertaken over the next three years.

The first phase, financed by NFER, "Transition from Home to Pre-school", starts in April and will finish at the end of August, 1980.

Five issues have been selected for detailed study with the intention of obtaining a fuller conceptual and empirical grasp of the process of transition at this stage in children's lives.

These are: first, immediate factors in transition, for example, problems faced by children upon entering pre-school and strategies employed by staff; secondly, the implications of age of entry into pre-school; thirdly, a comparison of home and pre-school environments; fourthly, associations between the child's experience in home and his behaviour and progress in pre-school; and fifthly, longer term issues such as the continuity of behaviour into pre-school life and the interplay of effects between pre-school and home.

The second study, financed by the Department of Education and Science, "Continuity of Children's Experience in Years 3 to 8", started in April, 1977, and will also finish

at the end of August, 1980.

It is divided into two main parts: a longitudinal study of a small sample of children during their first three months in pre-school and their first three months in infant school; and a cross-sectional study of the activities commonly provided and the context in which they are experienced in infant schools and the various forms of pre-school.

The third part, financed by the Schools Council, "Transition and Continuity: Early Education: Development Project", starts in April and will also finish at the end of August, 1980.

It will also be closely integrated with the DES project and will develop and evaluate the concept of locally based "Liaison Groups", each composed of the staff of "neighbourhood" infant school and its "contributory" pre-school institutions, as a means of harmonizing their children's early educational experiences, and coordinating the activities each provides.

The programme as a whole thus covers the educational transitions made by children in their first eight years, and combines pure research, with action research, fact-finding, and application, diagnosis with treatment.

Most importantly, it is implicit in the nature of the work that boundaries between maintained and voluntary provision, "professionals" and "amateurs" will be crossed, and common ground established between teachers, nursery nurses, playground leaders, child minders and parents.

Sociologist looks at Moon church

by Peter David

The meaning and organization of the Korean-based Unification Church, which has a growing British membership, is to be the subject of a research project at the London School of Economics funded by the Social Science Research Council.

Founded in Korea in 1954, the church claims several million members around the world. British membership is over 200; and in America, where membership exceeds 30,000, the church has been accused of brainwashing its converts.

The project is being undertaken by Mrs Eileen Barker, a sociology lecturer at the LSE who has already carried out post-graduate observation of the church communities in Britain.

With the help of £4,792 from the SSRC, Mrs Barker will spend two years seeking to discover how the church's adherents make sense of their decision to become members. Joining the church entails surrendering all personal property to the church, accepting marriage partners chosen by the church, and abandoning careers to sail flowers or literature on the streets.

The research project will focus on a study of the kind of people most likely to undergo the sort of life they lead; the social organization of the church and its relationship with the outside world.

Why women break more bones

by Robin McKie

Science Correspondent

Medical research is being pioneered at Glasgow to find out why women are more liable to break bones than men in later life.

The work involves a joint project between the city's Western Infirmary and Stobhill hospitals and Glasgow University's medicine department. The ten-year study, just begun, is awarded a £15,000 grant by Scleroderma Chemicals towards the development of a hormone therapy to overcome the problem.

The Glasgow researchers have pioneered the therapy as a treatment for osteoporosis, a condition in which women lose about one per cent of their bone mass per year after menopause. When a woman reaches 70, her bones may weigh 25 per cent less than they did at 45, leaving her far more susceptible to hip fractures, wrist breaks, and similar conditions.

One of the team, Dr Robert Lindsay, of the medicine department, said that at the age of 21 the ratio of wrist breaks between men and women was 3:2. By 65, it was 1:7.

"This problem is a very serious one, particularly with hip fractures. These nearly always require an operation and, at an elderly age, there is always a high operative risk," he added.

"The mechanism that causes osteoporosis is still a mystery and there is a whole host of medical theories on the subject."

Lancaster project in youth opportunities

by Patricia Santinelli

Lancaster University's contribution to the Youth Opportunities Programme is to get underway today, when a one year research project involving the Institute of Post Compulsory Education at Lancaster, Nelson and Colne College and the Further Education Curriculum Review and Development Unit is agreed to.

The project, which is being funded by the FEU to the tune of £7,500, involves Mr Noel Kershaw, deputy principal of Nelson and Colne College, in producing a register of innovations in further education and carrying out research on "best practice" innovations.

The research originates from work undertaken last summer by Mr Kershaw which revealed the difficulties of tracing innovations except through personal contact.

"As a result of my work I had arranged for three Dutch people to see some innovative projects, and this highlighted the problem of not having a register as well as the danger of people repeating each other's work," Mr Kershaw said.

Another project, the Caribbean Workshop in Sheffield, is designed to develop young people's ability to cope with life in general—that is being flexible and adaptable to

changes in employment, periods of unemployment. Other schemes involve, in their last year at school, one day a week out of school as in the British project.

Here youngsters take a programme designed to be a mixture of out-of-work experience and education. But this is also used in helping young people to find and effectively in groups.

Indeed this is also being used by the authority in helping young people to find and effectively in groups. But this is also used in helping young people to find and effectively in groups.

He added that this was the kind of less formal experience which had to be at the centre of any contribution further education made to the Holland programme.

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The campus at Lancaster: contribution to Youth Opportunities Programme.

Parasites and immunity in the intestines

A grant of £14,894 has been awarded to two researchers at York University's zoology department to study immunity mechanisms over the next three years.

Dr Leslie Chappell and Dr Alan Pike will conduct the study into the mechanisms that operate in the rat intestine against the tapeworm. The major interest in this research is the fact that all parasites that live in the intestines, including man, are exposed to the immune responses of the host. These responses are considerably weaker than those in tissues and it is now clear that the intestine is a highly controlled environment.

There is currently an increasing interest in immunity to intestinal dwelling parasites. This work has important implications as many million people harbour intestinal parasites, particularly in the Third World.

The researchers will concentrate initially on the identification and measurement of each type of rat antibody that adheres to tapeworms. Then they will investigate the role of the parasite will be examined in detail.

Transition from school to work

The Church of England is to study the transition from school to work of 16-year-old school leavers in an action research programme which it plans to conduct over the next 31 years.

The work, which will be based in Yorkshire, is to be funded by the Department of Education and Science. A research officer, who is to be appointed by the General Secretary of Education, will be based in York at the College of Ripon and York St John.

The research officer will try to help the local community and schools to improve the preparation and support given to young people during this critical phase.

Schools in York and Bradford will

cooperate both in the research and in the implementation of the findings.

Previous studies of the transition from school to work have been carried out in the amount of support provided.

The distinctive contribution of this project, it is hoped, will be to study the response of other agencies to the needs of local school leavers.

The project coordinator, Mr John Bennett, lecturer in education at the college, said that the National Career Education Council will act as consultant.

Rocks disturbed after 50m years

Rocks which arrived at Birmingham University this week had—until eight weeks ago—lain undisturbed for 50 million years about four miles below the Pacific Ocean.

The samples were part of a deep-sea drilling project carried out by the ship "Glomar Challenger" and funded by the United States, USSR, Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Britain contributes more than £500,000 a year to the project.

The rocks are being analysed at Birmingham because the automated X-ray fluorescence system in the geological sciences department is able to produce major and trace element analyses both precisely and very rapidly. This is particularly important for such a project as one of the aims of the project is to study of results will influence future drilling programmes.

It is hoped the new data will provide information about the mechanism of back-arc spreading—a form of sea floor spreading different from that at normal mid-ocean ridges which is responsible for the drifting of continents.

Sheltered homes

A research team at York University has been asked to carry out a survey of sheltered homes for the elderly in England and Wales.

The survey, which will be carried out by Dr Roland Newman, will be the collection of information on the amount and distribution of sheltered housing in the country. Details on the type of accommodation, the nature of facilities will be

collected.

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North American news

Big growth in student funding planned

from Olive Coulson

North America correspondent

WASHINGTON

The Carter administration has asked Congress to authorize a huge expansion of federal student aid programmes that would make an additional two million middle-income students eligible for grants and loans for the first time.

The \$1.66bn package was announced at the White House last week by President Carter and Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary, Mr Joseph Califano, in the presence of the leaders of six key Congressional committees.

The latter promised to do their best to ensure rapid passage of the Bill through the Senate and House of Representatives.

The battle in Congress between the administration's supporters in the House and Senate education committees, who want to help middle-income families meet the soaring costs of higher education by expanding existing student assistance programmes, and their opponents, who are pressing for an entirely new "middle class credit" bill, is now certain to be the major political issue affecting higher education in 1978.

Mr Carter made no effort to conceal the fact that his package was designed to prevent Congress passing any of the tax credit bills which have received strong support in the Senate recently. (The most sweeping Bill, introduced by Senators Pat Moynihan and Bob Packwood, would allow families to write off \$500 taxes a year per student in independent secondary schools as well as higher education. A more limited proposal by Senator William Roth would

give a \$250 credit for public and university students only.)

Congress must choose between a tax credit and the more generous student assistance programmes that the President wants. "I will not accept both," the administration opposes tax credits because they would give away hundreds of millions of dollars to the rich who do not need help with tuition costs. According to the United States Treasury, 30 per cent of Senator Roth's tax credit would go to those earning more than \$10,000 a year.

After the President's announcement, Senator Roth explained that he and his supporters would not let the new proposals derail their efforts to pass tax credit legislation.

However, higher education lobby groups quickly called behind the Carter plan. The American Council on Education (ACE), biggest of the post-secondary organizations, said it would work for the enactment of the proposals.

If Congress does pass the Carter package, many think the first million American students will be eligible for federal financial assistance in the next academic year, compared with three million this year.

The government's spending on student aid will climb from \$3,600 million in 1977-78 to \$5,200 million in 1978-79. The increase comes in three main parts:

● Eligibility for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants will be extended to all students from families earning up to \$25,000 (the present income ceiling is \$15,000). The maximum grant for low income students will be raised from \$1,600

to \$1,800 in 1978-79. The increase in the \$1,800 to \$2,500 income bracket will be \$250. Expenditures will be changed to make it much easier for self-supporting students to qualify.

● The Guaranteed Student Loan programme, which underwrites bank loans and subsidizes interest payments, will be expanded to support 240,000 new loans to students, with family incomes above \$16,000. These loans are as high as \$4,500 (currently 30,000 will become eligible).

● The College Work Study programme, under which the federal government pays 50 per cent of the wages of students doing part-time jobs, will grow to enable 280,000 further students to work their way through college.

President Carter introduced his package with some statistics to show that "under the cost of sending a son or daughter to college is an increasingly serious burden on America's low and middle income families."

He said average college costs increased 77 per cent over the past decade but he did not mention the fact that average disposable family incomes have actually increased more than that. Today the price of tuition fees, board and lodging is \$4,800 a year at an average private college and \$2,500 a year at a public university. At some of the leading private institutions fees may reach \$7,000 a year.

In financial terms Mr Carter's student aid package is \$340m bigger than HEW officials led the press to expect when the 1979 Budget was announced last month (THESE, January 27), and some observers think it is likely to expand further as it passes through the House and Senate education committees.

HEW published its guidelines for desegregating public higher education last year in response to a lawsuit filed by the NAACP. Secretary in 1970 by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP).

Ten states whose universities and colleges were once legally segregated were originally involved in the case. However, the United States Justice Department has filed separate suits against Louisiana and Mississippi; Maryland brought its own suit against HEW—the case is currently before an appeals court; and Pennsylvania is still negotiating an out-of-court settlement with HEW.

The eight remaining states which once practised de jure segregation are not involved in court action. However, Mr Califano said last week that over the next two years HEW's Office of Civil Rights will review the eight—Texas, South Carolina, Alabama, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware and West Virginia—to find out whether their public colleges and universities are in line with the department's integration guidelines.

According to Mr Califano, the goal in all states is to have "a fair and single system of higher education" that allows any student to choose an excellent college whether it has a tradition of being black or white.

The plans his Department accepted from Florida, Arkansas and Oklahoma would all achieve the proportion of black students in higher education as a whole.

Integrating the traditionally black and white colleges in the southern states is in some ways even more difficult than school desegregation because of the need to preserve the continuity of the historically black institutions.

The HEW guidelines emphasize the unique role of black colleges in meeting the needs of black students, and attempt to preserve the black colleges by delaying their integration.

They allow black colleges to retain their largely black enrolment, on average Virginia's and Oklahoma's black institutions are 88 per cent black—during the first part of the desegregation process while white universities are increasing their black enrolments.

While the name of the game is desegregation an equally important aim remains of course to increase the proportion of black students in higher education as a whole.

Desegregation schemes take step forward

from our North America correspondent

WASHINGTON

The government has accepted plans to eliminate remaining racial segregation in the colleges and universities of three southern states where it was once legal. But the integration plans submitted by another three states have been rejected.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) will begin to cut off the flow of federal higher education funds in Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina within 45 days unless they can produce new desegregation schemes that comply with federal guidelines.

Virginia and Georgia's present plans were judged to be unsatisfactory as a whole. North Carolina's proposals for desegregating the 16-campus university of the state, the Carolina system were also rejected. The Department has accepted the state's plans for its 57 community colleges.

Mr Joseph Califano, Secretary of HEW, praised state education officials in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Florida. Acceptance of their plans, he said, "underscores a vital point in the fight against segregation: that it can be settled by thoughtful and good faith negotiations between state and federal officials."

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Applicants' ages 'should not affect selection chances'

Medical and other professional schools should not be allowed to use age as a selection criterion after the Age Discrimination Act comes into force in January, 1979, the United States Commission on Civil Rights has recommended.

The recommendation is included in the commission's report on a 15-month investigation of age discrimination in federally supported activities, which was ordered by Congress in help in the preparation of guidelines for enforcing the Act.

Of 114 medical schools reviewed, 23 specifically took age into account when selecting students. The commission quoted one prospective student who said: "Applicants over the age of 30 rarely will be considered. New applicants over 35 will not be accepted."

The Age Discrimination Act, passed in 1975 will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in any programme for which the United States government provides financial support. The Commission on Civil Rights recommends that the only

exceptions should be those specifically authorized by Congress.

Higher education apart from medical schools got high marks from the commission for providing an increasing range of new opportunities to meet the needs of "non-traditional students" over the age of 22.

Initiatives for which colleges were congratulated included: expanding continuing education facilities; dispensing with national standardized tests for mature students; developing professional training courses; and giving academic credit for "professional or life experience."

One member of the commission, Mr Stephen Horn, who is President of California State University at Long Beach, wrote a minority report dissenting from the view that applicants' ages were taken into account.

Many medical educators also feel that it is wrong to spend tens of thousands of dollars training someone who is going to be able to provide medical services for only a few years.

More foreign students

Almost 56,000 foreign students are now studying in Canada, compared with 30,000 in 1973. The largest contingent, 17,267, comes from Hongkong, according to Statistics Canada.

But the number may have peaked. Applications from foreign students are now beginning to decline. A new Immigration Act has introduced differential fees for foreign students in Ontario and Alberta, and brought in other measures such as language tests and more selective admissions policies.

The four projects are: identification of environmental carcinogens, led by Professor Bruce Ames of UC Berkeley (inventor of the famous Ames test for mutagenic chemicals);

developing an economic forecasting model for California, directed by Professor Larry Kimbell of UC Los Angeles;

energy conservation, Professor Arthur Rosenfeld, Berkeley;

social and ecological effects of agricultural research—hast, for example, put farm workers out of

Joint research in California

The first four topics have been chosen for a joint research programme to be undertaken by the University of California and the state government. They are part of the California Policy Seminar, an imaginative new way of bringing the university's huge research resources to bear on the most pressing problems of the "Sunshine State."

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developing an economic forecasting model for California, directed by Professor Larry Kimbell of UC Los Angeles;

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work. Details on the type of accommodation, the nature of facilities will be collected.

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Explorer satellite may get new task

The recently launched International Ultraviolet Explorer, originally scheduled to observe stars and galaxies, will now also be used to investigate the properties of planetary atmospheres.

A £16,000 grant from the Science Research Council has been awarded to the astronomy department of Lancaster University for this study. The money will be used to coordinate results from the satellite's "Joint Venture between US National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

the European Space Agency and the UK Space Research Council.

Professor Jack Meadows, head of the department, said two results would be of great importance to future deep space missions launched by the Americans. The findings would serve as a guide to the set up of NASA space probes to Uranus and other planets.

Ultraviolet radiation from the sun is reflected by a planetary atmosphere, contains information

about the chemical make-up of that atmosphere. From this the department hopes to gain knowledge about the origin and evolution of planets.

A present the Explorer satellite is undergoing instrument tests which it was responsible about getting their first results by May.

The work is to be carried out in collaboration with investigators at University College London and the Appleton Laboratory in Slough.

Need to eradicate 'running complex'

Pakistan's colonial inheritance, in the eye of partition, was two universities: the University of Punjab and the University of Sindh. The latter, established in 1948, was a continuation of the old University of Sindh. Today, there are nine fully fledged universities, three of them under 10 years old.

Not surprisingly, the University of Punjab is the most established and must respected. It is also the most nationalistic. The initiative, it is modelled on the universities of colonial Britain and, as such, it faces real difficulties in meeting the social, cultural and economic needs of a young nation.

The universities which emerged immediately after partition—Sindh, Karachi and Peshawar—were modelled on the University of Punjab. They too suffer, although to a lesser degree, from the colonial mentality.

Three factors have hampered these universities. Most of the courses are taught in English, and most of the textbooks are imported from Britain and the United States. Pakistani educators are quite content to import curricula (and associated ideology) from abroad. As a result, quality has been difficult to maintain.

Second, the administration of the universities has remained extremely bureaucratic. Its purpose has been to enable the bureaucracy to flourish and gain power. Additionally, themselves properly in English. At best, only vertical communication is possible.

The constantly changing political environment is the third factor. This is reflected not only in national development planning but also in the higher education. The only meaningful progress under the 10-year military rule of President Ayub Khan, which at least brought some stability to the country.

Added to these three main factors which have blocked the growth of Pakistani universities is the real shortage of human resources. A "running complex" is in operation: anybody who is anybody wants to run out of Pakistan and escape from her overburdening problems.

A ray of hope is provided by the newer universities: at least they do not have a colonial hangover. The University of Islamabad has developed a reputation for the severely neglected and the dubious honour of having the ugliest architecture of all the Pakistani universities: the network of inverted-inverted structures contrasts awkwardly with

the scenic beauty of the natural environment. But architecture apart, the University of Islamabad has high academic standards. Its research degrees are almost as good as in any developed university of the west. Many of its MPhil students sent abroad proceed straight to Ph.D.

First degree courses in Pakistan do not vary much from university to university: BA or BSc is taken in two subjects and lasts four years after matriculation. A good Pakistani first degree is roughly equivalent to a good subject at two British A levels. The BSc courses are slightly longer and are of six-year duration after matriculation. They are slightly more advanced than a British BSc.

The university entrance qualification is called FA/PCS, the initials standing for Fellow of Arts and Fellow of Science. It is an intermediate qualification acquired after two years' post-matriculation study. Generally the standard is slightly above O level in science subjects and at par with O level in arts.

The results of the FA/PCS examinations are published in the marks above 60 per cent, an automatically in medical and engineering colleges.

Admission to medical colleges is highly sought after. This is not surprising, for doctors are among the most respected and best-paid professions in Pakistani society. The drive to get into medical colleges has almost become a mania.

Although a wide variety of post-graduate courses are offered, very few prepare the students for a career. Among the most useful are Journalism and Library science. The Master's courses last two years and take the students to about the same level as an ordinary degree in Britain.

Priorities, Pakistani universities need to get more involved with the rural and less developed sections of the country. Shortages of trained manpower in rural areas frequently require some form of incentives. Studies on both current and future market trends, if accurate, would assist universities to set realistic targets. Unemployment and underemployment of graduates is serious.

The universities need to involve themselves far more with local communities, industry and the private sector through research and consultation. The aim should be an output of people committed to Pakistan's society.

'Exile law' sparks off widespread protests

from Uli Schmeitser

Rome Buses and cars burnt in central Rome again earlier this month as militant left-wing students rekindled against the application of an old fascist law under which their leaders are to be banished to distant parts of the country.

The Quirinale piece of legislation, on the statute books since 1863, was part of a new offensive by the judiciary and the main political parties to quash student violence which paralysed a great part of the past academic year.

Undermined by the government crisis, Italy's judiciary activated the "banishment law" (confino) for the first time since the war and applied it to three student leaders, one of whom had already been cleared of charges of causing public disorder through lack of evidence.

Government ministers hinted the law would be applied more rigorously in the future, possibly even against left-wing radio stations like Radio Onda Rossa (Red Wave Radio) and Radio Città Futura (Future City), which have been accused of fomenting unauthorized public demonstrations.

The law, initially passed to combat "brigandage", was amended in 1954 to encompass "people dangerous to public order" and made shipwrecked during Mussolini's dictatorship. It was allegedly used to break the back of the Mafia but in fact provided the legal means to "political enemies" (most of them communists) to islands around the peninsula.

Under the statute's provision the "condemned" are either banished to offshore islands, far-away cities or their home towns where they must report each morning and evening to the police. Sentences are passed behind closed doors. There is no right of appeal.

Implementation of the confino is thought to be a political sacrifice by the communists, eager to portray a democratic "law and order" image to mark their endeavour for a say in government.

Austria

Court gives go-ahead for new decision-making structure

The Austrian Constitutional Court has now published its judgment of last October in which it rejected the claim advanced by the High Administrative Court that certain provisions of the recent Austrian University Act are unconstitutional. The decision means that the *universitätsrechtliche* *Aufbestimmung*, the equal distribution of the membership of many major university committees between full professors, non-professional staff and students, is permissible.

The Austrian decision contrasts with the 1973 judgment of the West German Constitutional Court which granted senior staff tenured university teaching staff at least 50 per cent of votes in all decisions affecting teaching and more than 50 per cent in all decisions concerning research and appointments.

The Austrian case was initially brought before the High Administrative Court by five professors from Vienna University. Since

however, only the Constitutional Court can decide on such matters, the conflict between the constitution and other legislation (the Administrative Court referred the issue to the Constitutional Court) was recommended to the Constitutional Court. The decision means that the *universitätsrechtliche* *Aufbestimmung*, the equal distribution of the membership of many major university committees between full professors, non-professional staff and students, is permissible.

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Sweden

Merger of arts institutions is abandoned

by Mike Duckenfield

Plans to amalgamate eight of Sweden's leading art, music and drama schools into a single institution have been scrapped. The change was to have taken place in July as the belated last step in the U68 reforms.

Proposals for the future of the Stockholm-based schools had been presented by the National Board of Universities and Colleges (UHA) after two years' discussion. Evi-

ged was one administrative unit standing on equal terms with the capital's other higher institutions: the Stockholm University, the Royal Institute of Technology and the Royal Institute of Music.

Like the other four institutions, the new institution would have had its own governing body, with one-third of its members representing the public, and one-third representing the separate bodies under the regional boards. Two-thirds of the members would have been non-educationalists (THES, May 13, 1977).

Frozen jobs trigger union anger

from Guy Neave

Tight university budgets led to a week-long strike by the *syndicat des enseignants supérieurs* (the *supérieur* teachers' union) in the left-wing university, particularly at the Sorbonne, where the demonstration, called on its members to "financial strangulation".

This year's budget for higher education amounts to 11,500 billion francs (8.8 per cent on the previous year). In real terms, however, the picture is not so rosy.

Inflation is running at around 10 per cent a year, though the pre-election estimates have been reduced to 8.5 per cent. Even so, the university budget represents a cut of between 1 and 2 per cent over 1976.

Particularly badly hit have been appointments to permanent university posts. Only 91 jobs for 1977 are to be on offer this year, the same as in 1976.

The strike call was followed by a general strike in the Sorbonne. Teachers' demands that the faculty be guaranteed some form of employment.

This assurance, which became public knowledge only several months later, revealed an appalling lack of knowledge and understanding of Germany's past among what are supposed to be future military leaders. It aroused a great deal of apprehension in Germany and led to a fierce political row.

The affair seemed to throw doubt on the whole concept of offering young future officers the opportunity to obtain, as part of their training, a degree in a recognised academic subject from an institution of university rank. And, however, would be independent of the main German *Länder*-controlled universities. The "military university" (the second is in Hamburg) is directly supervised by the Federal Defence Ministry and "recognised" by the respective *Länder* governments.

Both institutions admitted their first students in October 1973. The universities had emerged after a long period of planning, and were set up within the framework of a wide-ranging re-organisation of education and training in the *Bundeswehr*.

The Ministry of Defence laid down that all future officers who signed up for a minimum of 12 years would undergo, in the beginning of their period of service, a five-year training period: 15 months' initial military training, ending with the officers' examination, would be followed by a three-year course of study and this would be followed by a three-year special education would be followed by a further stage of military training as a direct preparation for the immediately following active service.

The courses were to be comparable to those of a national university and lead to an equivalent qualification.

Both the *Wissenschaftszentrum*, the country's top higher education advisory body, and the West German *Rektorenkonferenz*, the committee of university heads, were involved in the early planning stages, and extensive negotiations took place between the Federal government, whose competence was limited to provide technical training for the services, and the *Länder* governments of Hamburg and Bavaria, which alone could grant these new institutions the right to award degrees.

The Defence Ministry stipulated that no course at the new institutions should last longer than three years; that Hamburg should offer degree courses in education, economics and management, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering; and Munich in education, economics and management, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and building with surveying. In Hamburg there would eventually be 2,100 student places, in Munich 2,500.

The structure of the two universities and the organization of their teaching programmes are broadly similar. A few differences

Military campus planning lacks precision

Günther Kluss on the criticisms surrounding West Germany's two armed forces' universities

The new buildings of one of West Germany's two Universities of the Federal Armed Forces (*Bundeswehrhochschulen*), at Neubiberg, near Munich, were opened in November 1976. The buildings, the last of the Federal Ministry of Defence, in his speech the Minister emphasized the importance of political education as part of the training of future officers of the *Bundeswehr*. During the academic study the "student officers" be said, must concern themselves with the major political, legal, social and moral problems confronting modern society. They should, above all, study recent history.

They later made no direct reference to several serious anti-semitic incidents which had occurred in the university. In February, 1977, some drunken young officers (since suspended or dismissed) sang Nazi songs and staged what has been described as a symbolic burning of Jews.

This assurance, which became public knowledge only several months later, revealed an appalling lack of knowledge and understanding of Germany's past among what are supposed to be future military leaders. It aroused a great deal of apprehension in Germany and led to a fierce political row.

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Mr Mintoff's war of attrition

Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister of Malta, has made no attempt to recent new laws of the Labour government. The Labour government passed an Education Act designed to achieve, among other things, a substantial restructuring in tertiary education. The sections of the Act dealing with the University of Malta were based on a report drawn up by a group of distinguished academics, headed by Professor Ralf Dahrendorf of the London School of Economics.

Although the proposals in the report were reasonable enough in themselves, they failed to come to grips with the problems posed by the small, closed society that exists on Malta. For instance, the report remarked on the lack of liaison between the university and the government, and as a remedy suggested the inclusion of more government appointees on the university council as well as the setting up of a Commission for Higher Education.

Among the aims of the latter was to be the coordination of activities in different areas of higher education and the promotion of a continuous dialogue between the government and university.

However, in Malta anyno "appointed by the government" considers himself simply as a mouthpiece, and is generally unwilling to take even trivial decisions without reference to his masters.

The commission, therefore, has turned out a talking shop, an uninspired one at that, while the university council is completely paralyzed. Its deliberations are not infrequently suspended while the government's men telephone for instructions.

With such paralysis at both executive and consultative levels, the academic provisions of the Dahrendorf report have remained a dead letter—in some cases through university reluctance, in others because the government has refused to implement them.

Last spring, university-government relations took a curiously worse. In April, Dr M. M. Mervin, an Australian economist on sabbatical leave from the University of Queensland, published a book on the Maltese economy. Its main conclusion was that the rate of growth had slowed substantially since the election of the Labour government in 1971. Considering the physical limitations of the island and the recession triggered off by the increase in oil prices, this conclusion hardly reflected much credit on Labour's economic policies.

Yet Dr Mervin found it difficult to find a publisher for his book—the university, for instance, refused to touch it—and when the book was published government economists criticized it fiercely.

Before the Mervin affair had blown over, another and more dangerous storm was looming. An apparently trivial disagreement between the government and the Medical Association of Malta led by rapid stages through a threatened strike, a lock-out of the doctors from the government (and teaching) hospital and the dismissal of a large number of doctors from government service. The senior consultants, who held joint government-university posts, were dismissed with the rest. The university, after taking legal advice, dismissed them from their departmental headships as well. The medical school was virtually devoid of staff.

The first casualties were the final-year medical students: the lock-out prevented clinical examinations. The students migrated to London, where they sat for, and put up a creditable performance in, the London Council Board examinations.

The lock-out of local doctors lost through the summer, with the government living in resort to the expensive expedient of importing foreign doctors to keep basic hospital services going. With the opening of the new academic year in October, and with no sign of settlement of the doctors' dispute, the problem of staffing the medical school became acute.

Partly through a desire not to make matters worse, the university

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present in large numbers, refused to accept. At the graduation ceremony in July, the Minister of Education and the President of the Republic walked out during a speech by one of the students.

Many bureaucratic restrictions on the university have also reached high levels. Money is being made available on a monthly basis: the library vote has been run by 10 per cent; funds for travel during vaca-



Port of the modernist University of Malta campus.

These suffragette-like tactics had some effect. The government promised to re-open the medical school, albeit under radically altered conditions: a work/study scheme with six months' work and six months' study, a long-term scheme and a study of grants (which students had been pressing for but which were anathema to the government) a £1,200 salary for the work part of the course. The teaching staff was to be made up of a surviving head of department, other Maltese doctors who had been recruited since the start of the strike and some foreign doctors.

Most of the students did not in fact wait for the opening of the school: the number of students on the course (1,200) was well above the capacity of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAT). Set up in 1961, MCAT has led a precarious existence, being generally neglected by governments but occasionally receiving support from the British Government (which students have been pressing for but which were anathema to the government) a £1,200 salary for the work part of the course. The teaching staff was to be made up of a surviving head of department, other Maltese doctors who had been recruited since the start of the strike and some foreign doctors.

Possibly as a preamble to a merger, MCAT has now been dubbed "The New University". The government has said that in future it will provide most of the same courses as the university and there are already indications how this may be brought about. To cater for teacher training, a Bachelor of Education degree course has been set up; it is physically sited at the New University but mainly serviced by University of Malta lecturers. According to one government spokesman, the New University will in future be restricted to people already employed by the government or para-state organizations.

The government argues that its main aim is to leave the tertiary level an adequate supply of properly trained manpower. It also wants to avoid the creation of a large number of unemployed graduates, which it fears would be a hotbed of social unrest. The problem with these explanations, however, is that they beg the questions they are supposed to answer. Precisely because of a serious lack of forecasts of manpower requirements, it is far from clear what the needs of the country are, and even less clear how sensitive these needs will be to the international economic climate.

The fundamental problem is not that of people unfitted to take up available jobs, or of a development hampered by lack of trained manpower, but of too few jobs being available. In 1976, for example, some 5,000 registered unemployed (5 per cent of the labour force); another 7,500 people work in the various labour corps, and married women are, generally, not allowed to work. The real unemployment level is therefore well above 10 per cent. The proposed restructuring in tertiary education, while it may avoid the production of an army of graduate unemployed by severe restriction on entry into university, cannot of itself ease the job situation.

Letting the consumers have a say

...the Western site and ...

Life in Tower Hamlets: Fewer than 200 youngsters a year enter the sixth form.

By next September it is hoped to have launched a "fresh horizons" course in conjunction with Toynbee

ships and developments in similar other ports of the country."

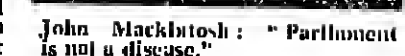
at Brndford Colls from
March 17, to Sunday, March
will be taking a further look
ony of these Issues and present
a series of concrete suggestions
ne I.e.o. ft will also be examine
the work being undertaken to
r areas.

used. At the time of the postgraduate programme, as a result, MSc postgraduate students, as an annual enrolment of some 11 students. Most are graduates, their and twenty, with considerable management experience, also under their belt.

...focusing an undergraduate course appear to have evaporated in view of the unexpectedly high quality of applicants for the BSc. According to Professor Oliver Vesey Holt, the school's sub-dean, the new course has been able to command the highest entry qualifications in the university, with over 1,000 applications for only 40 places.

expected in the long run to draw the university closer to the financial community around it and influence the pattern of teaching and research within the school. Inevitably, the school's City connections have influenced its research profile. Two particularly exotic City-related research pro-

The backbench professor



was that people of considerable influence, who'd been appointed to this or that body, who'd have gladly gone on, saying: 'Oh, I'd love to serve, John, I'm dead keen to hothot, but I'm on the leaving industry band.' I can't remember

nessman not to blockade East Coast ports, for instance. As a result, I think I'm a much better teacher."

Horner's view

Peter David

Committee. "Will bother me to be noble, under a Labour Government."

Earlier, in November 1967, Crossman, not unappreciably, saw Meekintosh as "nice and unsty, bitchy and enormously gifted, clever and yet in certain ways stupid: a kid

Wfo. I don't think I'd have derived my interest in political theory if I hadn't faced some of the problems in practice; of having to persuade fisherman not to blockade East Coast ports, for instance. As a result, I think I'm a much better

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universities continued

Universities

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Invites applications from, or the nomination of highly qualified individuals for the position of

PRESIDENT

to take office September 1, 1978

The University of Calgary is a publicly supported institution established in 1966. Degree programs are offered in a wide variety of academic and professional disciplines through 15 Faculties and a University College. The University has a current full-time enrolment of approximately 11,000, including both graduate and undergraduate students and a full-time teaching faculty of 940.

The President has the general supervision over and direction of the operation of the University, including the academic work and business affairs of the University, and such other powers and duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Governors.

In the performance of these functions, the President is assisted by a Vice-President (Academic), a Vice-President (Finance) and a Vice-President (Services).

The salary and terms of office of the President are negotiable.

Written applications or nominations for this position, accompanied by a resume of qualifications, will be received until a selection is made, and should be sent to:

Secretary to the Board of Governors
Room 127, Arts Building
The University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 1N4

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ESSEX

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Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER IN ENGLISH** in the Department of English. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of English. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in English or a related field. The salary is £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of English, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GB.

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Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER IN ENGLISH** in the Department of English. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of English. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in English or a related field. The salary is £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of English, University of Bradford, Bradford BD9 4JT.

AUSTRALIA

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Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER IN LEGAL AID** in the Department of Law. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Law. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Law or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Law, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072.

University of Queensland

LECTURER IN MUSIC (PIANO)

Applicants should be experienced pianists with a degree in music, and should be able to teach at postgraduate level. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Music or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Music, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072.

University of Melbourne

CHAIR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the position of **CHAIR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING** in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010.

University of Melbourne

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Applications are invited for the position of **CHAIR OF ECONOMIC HISTORY** in the Department of Economics. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Economics. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Economic History or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010.

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LECTURER IN DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER IN DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING** in the Department of Accounting. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Accounting. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Accounting or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Accounting, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010.

University of Melbourne

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UNIVERSITY OF TRONDHEIM

The Norwegian Institute of Technology

LECTURER IN ENGLISH

The Norwegian Institute of Technology invites applications for a **LECTURER IN ENGLISH** in the Department of English. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of English. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in English or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of English, Norwegian Institute of Technology, 7034 Trondheim-NTH, Norway.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

SASKATOON, CANADA

ORAL BIOLOGY

Applications are invited for two full-time positions in the Department of Oral Biology. The successful candidates will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Oral Biology. The positions are full-time and require a Ph.D. in Oral Biology or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Oral Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

SASKATOON, CANADA

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Department of Electrical Engineering

Full-time Appointment

The Governing Body invites applications for a full-time position of **LECTURER** in the Department of Electrical Engineering. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Electrical Engineering. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Electrical Engineering, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES - JAMAICA

PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER IN APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Applications are invited for the position of **PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER IN APPLIED MATHEMATICS** in the Department of Applied Mathematics. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Applied Mathematics. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Applied Mathematics, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Department of Statistics

Full-time Appointment

Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER** in the Department of Statistics. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Statistics. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Statistics or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Statistics, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY

SMALL GRANTS RESEARCH FUND IN THE HUMANITIES

Applications to the Fund are invited from senior members of the staff of universities or other institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom to support research by individual scholars in the Humanities. Closing date: 1977-78 and 1978-79 and 30 April 1978. Further details and application forms are available from the Secretary, The British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1P 0NS (Tel: 01-734 6457).

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES - JAMAICA

LECTURER IN CROP PRODUCTION

Applications are invited for the position of **LECTURER IN CROP PRODUCTION** in the Department of Crop Production. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Crop Production. The position is full-time and requires a Ph.D. in Crop Production or a related field. The salary is \$12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Department of Crop Production, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

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